

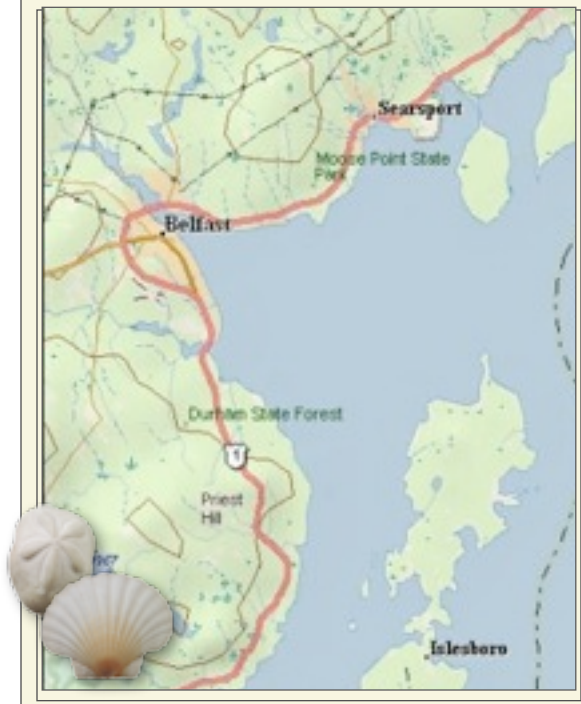


The Purpose and Mission

The Garden Project grows empowered-academically successful young people. Students learn to integrate sustainability into their lives by producing and learning to satisfy their needs locally.

Our mission is to create a district wide agricultural project that promotes healthy living through practical applications. At the Troy Howard Middle School we strive to integrate the school and its land with the community.

Our goal is to engage all students in a journey of discovery through gardening projects that meet **science, math, language arts, economics, and social studies Maine Learning Results**. Our young people are excited by making a real difference in their school and community.



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Specific Contributors:

Maine Depart. of Agriculture, Bangor Savings
 Maine Initiatives-Harvest Fund, Scott's Co.
 MBNA, Intervale, Aubuchon, Viking and EBS
 Moss Inc., Holmes, Exxon Mobile, National
 Gardening Association, Trustworthy
 Maine Cooperative Ext., Ext. Service
 USDA, Maine DEP, Moss Tent, MOFGA
 FEDCO, Johnny's, Harris, Pinetree Garden
 Peter's Seed & Research, Green Thumb
 Master Gardeners, Belfast Coop, Unity College

THE GARDEN PROJECT

BELFAST, MAINE



 TROY HOWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL 

*...encompassing an outdoor learning experience
 by providing a school-wide garden
 and greenhouse project in which all
 children can participate and excel.*



School-Student Impact

The project provides SAD 34 educators a framework and activities that integrate gardening, the apple orchard and watershed within the curriculum.

This is being achieved through teacher developed workshops, school-community partnerships and in-class teaching that facilitates inquiry-based student projects:

- Producing compost,
- earthworms,
- organic food,
- seeds and seedlings,
- low cost technologies,
- student-run businesses, and community apprenticeships.

A variety of herbs, vegetables, and flowers are grown from seeds. Several thousand pounds of organic produce is harvested annually and used in the school food services, sold to MSAD 34 families and the community through a school based farmers market at the middle school, sold whole sale to the local Coop. Food is also shared in abundance with students.

The Garden Project affords students the opportunity to work collaboratively, solve problems as a team, and foster a strong sense of self-confidence while gaining an appreciation for the value of agriculture. Basic concepts at the core of the project include: *where our food comes from, how to grow, harvest and prepare vegetables and fruits and the key to healthy soils and choices are developed.*



Highlights include: bean-hole dinners, the pizza project, our famous garden loom, making and selling spaghetti sauce and salsa, pesto, potato/ squash soup, hosting a spaghetti dinner, heirloom seed saving and the healthy greens initiative.



Community Service

Some of the food produced is donated to local soup kitchens and food pantries thereby teaching community responsibility and social awareness.

Each Friday during the season, students deliver baskets of produce to the local soup kitchen and food pantry.



Want to Get Your Hands Dirty?

We can't do this alone. Tell us your talents and we'll find a way to fit you in. Join us for a day or the summer, in the greenhouse or in the compost pile.

Recognition & Participation

The THMS Garden Project is recognized in the community as a learning center, a source of food and community service opportunity for students.

Teachers in the Project have received numerous State and National Awards & Grants honoring their curriculum work and service learning efforts including:

- 2003 & '06- MAITCA Teacher of the Year
- 2004- Making the Grade Award, Maine State Board of Education for an exemplary curriculum
- Farm Bureau White-Reinhardt Scholarship/Award
- 2005-Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture: National Award Winner (USDA).
- 2006-Scott's National Teacher of the Year
- 2006-Cuban Sustainable Research Delegation
- 2006- N.G.A. National School Garden of the Year

Head Start and other pre-school children, as well as school groups and organizations from other parts of Maine have visited the program for workshops, start-up support and the thrill of pulling their first carrot.

The Belfast Garden Club, Maine, Maine Department Of Education,, Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, School Garden Network, Morris Farms, Western Maine Alliance, Maine Agriculture in the Classroom and the Maine State Grange are among the organizations that have visited and supported the Project.

Outreach

Start up funds and supplies for the Troy Howard Middle School Garden project came from grants, local donations and MSAD 34 financial and human resources. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension, USDA, Cornell, and local experts have provided technical assistance. Our community friends have been the key to making this project grow.

In the past four years, students have won over 80 ribbons at the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association's (MOFGA) Common Ground Fair.

